

**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
PUBLIC HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION**

**PHSSC 11-2021
Tuesday, December 7, 2021
Council Chamber / Video Conference
Niagara Region Headquarters, Campbell West
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, ON**

Committee Members Present in the Council Chamber: Greenwood (Committee Co-Chair)

Committee Members Present via Video Conference: Bradley (Regional Chair), Butters, Darte, Foster, Gibson, Jordan, Nicholson, Rigby, Sendzik, Villella, Whalen, Witteveen

Absent/Regrets: Chiocchio (Committee Co-Chair), Insinna, Ip

Staff Present in the Council Chamber: C. Cousins, Director, Homelessness and Community Engagement, Dr. M. M. Hirji, Acting Medical Officer of Health, A. Jugley, Commissioner, Community Services, H. Koning, Director, Senior Services, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, L. Panetta, Associate Director, Mental Health, J. Spratt, Administrative Assistant to the Regional Clerk, R. Tripp, Chief Administrative Officer, L. Watson, Director, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities

Staff Present via Video Conference: D. Barnhart, Executive Officer to the Regional Chair, B. Brens, Associate Director, Reporting and Analysis, R. Ferron, Deputy Chief/Associate Director, Emergency Medical Services, L. Garofalo, Manager, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention, Dr. A. Kasmani, Associate Medical Officer of Health, S. Kearns, Director, Environmental Health, K. Lotimer, Legislative Coordinator, D. Lorenzo, Associate Director, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention, M. Mako, Commander, Mobile Integrated Health, D. Woiceshyn, Director, Housing Services

Others Present via Video Conference: M. Donahue, President, Residents' Council, Upper Canada Lodge

1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Co-Chair Greenwood called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

2. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Councillor Nicholson declared a direct pecuniary with respect to Correspondence Item COM-C 36-2021(Agenda Item 6.5), respecting Niagara Regional Housing Quarterly Report July to September 30, 2021, as he has an employment relationship with Tribunal Ontario.

3. PRESENTATIONS

3.1 The Mental Health Sector in Niagara & Niagara Region's Role

Lisa Panetta, Associate Director, Mental Health, provided information respecting The Mental Health Sector in Niagara & Niagara Region's Role. Topics of the presentation included:

- Provincial Landscape
- Niagara's Mental Health and Addictions Sector
- Core Services in the Mental Health and Substance Addictions Sector
- Niagara Region Mental Health
- Niagara Region Mental Health Services
- Other Niagara Region Programs Addressing Mental Health
- External Partnerships and Collaborations

4. DELEGATIONS

Councillor Greenwood advised that she was in receipt of an email from Niagara Health regarding inaccuracies in the delegate's presentation. As a result the Committee requested that the delegation be removed from the agenda; therefore, it was:

Moved by Councillor Sendzik
Seconded by Councillor Witteveen

That the delegation from Rebecca Hahn, resident, City of St. Catharines, respecting "Trust the Science vs Trust the Facts" **BE REMOVED** from the agenda.

Carried

5. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

5.1 COM 27-2021

Submission of the 2019 Child Care Services Schedule of Revenues and Expenses

Moved by Councillor Whalen
Seconded by Councillor Nicholson

That Report COM 27-2021, dated December 7, 2021, respecting Submission of the 2019 Child Care Services Schedule of Revenues and Expenses, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the Child Care Services revised draft Schedule of Revenues and Expenses for the year ended December 31, 2019 (Appendix 1 to Report COM 27-2021) **BE RECEIVED** for information;
2. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to coordinate with the auditor to finalize the statements as presented; and
3. That this report **BE FORWARDED** to the Region's Audit Committee for information.

Carried

5.2 COM 28-2021

Approval of the 2020 Long Term Care Home and Child Care Services Program Audits

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Gibson

That Report COM 28-2021, dated December 7, 2021, respecting Approval of the 2020 Long Term Care Home and Child Care Services Program Audits, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the Child Care Services draft accountant's report for the specified audit procedures as at March 31, 2020 (Appendix 1 to Report COM 28-2021) **BE APPROVED**;
2. That the Child Care Services draft Schedule of Revenues and Expenses for the year ended December 31, 2020 (Appendix 2 to Report COM 28-2021) **BE APPROVED**;

3. That the 2020 draft audited Long-Term Care Home Annual Reports for the year ended December 31, 2020 (Appendices 3 - 10 to Report COM 28-2021) **BE APPROVED**;
4. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to coordinate with the auditor to finalize the statements as presented; and
5. That this report **BE FORWARDED** to the Region's Audit Committee for information.

Carried

5.3 PHD 14-2021

Collaborative Action to Support the Need for Permanent Paid Sick Days

Moved by Councillor Sendzik

Seconded by Councillor Foster

That Report PHD 14-2021, dated December 7, 2021, respecting Collaborative Action to Support the Need for Permanent Paid Sick Days, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That Regional Council **RECOMMEND** that the Government of Ontario make permanent, the currently temporary three (3) paid sick days in the *Employment Standards Act, 2000* (ESA) set to expire December 31, 2021;
2. That Regional Council **RECOMMEND** that the Government of Ontario engage in consultation with local municipalities, employers, and broader communities to understand the impacts of the three (3) permanent paid sick days created in 2021;
3. That Regional Council **RECOMMEND** that the Government of Ontario develop, through consultation, a transition plan to support businesses and employers in making the three (3) sick days permanent;
4. That Regional Council **RECOMMEND** that the Government of Ontario engage in consultation with local municipalities, employers, and broader communities to understand the challenges to increasing the number of sick days further and the supports necessary to enable increasing the number of sick days to be in line with recommendations for adequate sick leave policies; and
5. That Regional Council **DIRECT** the Regional Chair to communicate the above recommendations to The Premier of Ontario, relevant Members of Provincial Cabinet, Niagara's Members of Provincial Parliament, and Niagara's Members of Parliament.

Carried

6. CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Moved by Councillor Darte
Seconded by Councillor Whalen

That the following items **BE RECEIVED** for information:

COM 29-2021

Bridge Housing Design Phase Operations

COM 30-2021

Ontario Works Caseload - Elimination of Federal COVID Benefits

COM 31-2021

Seniors Services Quality Improvement Report: July - September 2021

COM-C 35-2021

Activities related to Niagara's 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Action Plan for September, October and November 2021

COM-C 36-2021

Niagara Regional Housing Quarterly Report July 1 to September 30, 2021

Carried

7. OTHER BUSINESS

There were no items of other business.

8. CLOSED SESSION

Committee did not resolve into closed session.

9. BUSINESS ARISING FROM CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

9.1 Confidential COM 32-2021

Information Explicitly Supplied in Confidence to the Municipality by the Province of Ontario under s. 239(2)(h) of the Municipal Act, 2001, Pertaining to a Potential Funding Opportunity and Related Agreements for the Construction of a Bridge Housing Project

Moved by Councillor Foster
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That Confidential Report COM 32-2021, dated December 7, 2021, respecting Information Explicitly Supplied in Confidence to the Municipality by the Province of Ontario under s. 239(2)(h) of the Municipal Act, 2001, Pertaining to a Potential Funding Opportunity and Related Agreements for the Construction of a Bridge Housing Project, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations therein, **BE APPROVED**.

Carried

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:11 p.m.

Councillor Greenwood
Committee Co-Chair

Kelly Lotimer
Legislative Coordinator

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk